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| APPLICATION NO.            | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR      | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/751,008                 | 12/31/2003  | Maria Theresa Barnes Leon | OIC0104US           | 5533             |
| 60975                      | 7590        | 04/02/2007                | EXAMINER            |                  |
| CSA LLP                    |             |                           | MISIASZEK, MICHAEL  |                  |
| 4807 SPICEWOOD SPRINGS RD. |             |                           | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
| BLDG. 4, SUITE 201         |             |                           | 3625                |                  |
| AUSTIN, TX 78759           |             |                           |                     |                  |

  

| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE | MAIL DATE  | DELIVERY MODE |
|--|------------|---------------|
| 3 MONTHS                               | 04/02/2007 | PAPER         |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

|                              |                   |                    |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | Application No.   | Applicant(s)       |
|                              | 10/751,008        | BARNES LEON ET AL. |
|                              | Examiner          | Art Unit           |
|                              | Michael Misiaszek | 3625               |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2007.  
 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 3-8 and 11-27 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3, 11 and 17-23 is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 4-8, 12-16 and 24-27 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/30/2007

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

Applicant's amendments filed 1/22/2007 have been received and reviewed. That status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 3-8 and 11-27 are pending. Claims 3,11, and 17-23 have been withdrawn from consideration by the applicant.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**1. Claims 4-8, 12-16, and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rappoport.**

**Regarding Claims 24-27**

Rappaport discloses a method and medium comprising managing a product, comprising:

- extracting product management information in a first form, wherein the product management information comprises information regarding the managing of the product and the first form is associated with a first source computerized product

management system (at least abstract: product design data for source system extracted from source system)

- converting the product management information in the first form, wherein the converting the product management information in the first form converts the product management information in the first form into product management information that is in a second intermediate form (at least column 10, lines 1-8: data converted into intermediate form and stored in bridge structure)
- converting the product management information in the second intermediate form wherein the converting the product management information in the second intermediate form converts the product management information in the second intermediate form into product management information in a target form the product management information in a target form corresponds to a target computerized product management system (at least column 5, lines 1-16: intermediary form converted to target form for target system)
- the second intermediate form comprises a list of product elements for defining a hierarchy of data elements (at least column 5, lines 24-35: intermediate form can preserve parametrics, features of design)
- using the product management information in the target form to perform at least one computer-implemented act from a set of computer-implemented acts comprising:
  - creating a new product record in the target computerized product management system;

- o updating an existing product management record in the target computerized product management system (at least column 5, lines 36-46: once in target form, design can be manipulated/updated)

Rappaport does not specifically disclose that the data being stored and converted in the method is product management information.

However, these differences are only found in the nonfunctional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited. The extracting, converting, and using steps would be performed in the same manner regardless of the data. Merely labeling the data in a specific manner would not alter the functionality of the claimed method.

Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, see *In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

Further, the examiner notes that Rappaport teaches using CAD systems for handling enterprise resource planning data (see at least column 1, lines 43-52), which is equated in product management information in the present specification.

Regarding Claims 4-8, 12-16

Rappoport does not specifically disclose the hierarchy of specific data elements claimed.

However, these differences are only found in the nonfunctional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited. The extracting, converting, and using steps of independent claims 24 and 26 would be performed in the same manner regardless of the data. In other words, no matter the format or makeup of the product management information, the same steps would be performed. Merely arranging the data in a specific fashion or labeling the data in a specific manner would not alter the functionality of the claimed method. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, see *In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

***Response to Arguments***

In response to applicant's assertion that the applicability of Rappoport has not been applied with the requisite specificity, the Examiner notes that the cited sections of Rappoport have been more clearly equated to the claimed limitations in the rejection above.

Applicant's further arguments with respect to the combinations of references rejecting claims 4-8, 12-16, and 24-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Misiaszek whose telephone number is (571) 272-6961. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith can be reached on (571) 272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Michael A. Misiaszek  
Patent Examiner  
3/28/2007

  
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